

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL
13 November 1983

NEW YORK
MOYNIHAN

The Reagan Administration should have tried to woo Cuban leader Fidel Castro rather than invading Grenada, a move which - though successful -- was risky because the military was not properly prepared, Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan said Sunday.

"I'm saying that (the invasion) was wrong," said Moynihan, D-N.Y., vice chairman of the Senate Select Intelligence Committee. "We should have seen if we could have opened up a division between Castro and (Soviet President Yuri) Andropov."

Moynihan made his comments on WCBS-TV's "Newsmakers" program.

When he was briefed the night before the invasion, Moynihan said he did not support the plan, however he agreed the president was right to protect the American medical students there. "We do not have the right to change the government. We do have right to intervene to protect our citizens," he said.

The senator said when he met in June with Maurice Bishop, who was slain Oct. 19, the Grenadian Prime Minister told him he believed the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency was trying to assassinate him. Moynihan said he assured Bishop the CIA had no designs on him but warned him of Soviet intentions.

Bishop, a Marxist, had invited Cubans and Soviets to the island and was particularly close to Castro, Moynihan said, noting the Cuban leader declared three days of mourning on his death.

Bishop is believed to have been killed by Grenadian soldiers who feared he was drifting away from hard-line Marxism.

Moynihan said Bishop was the second of Castro's associates, after Che Guevara, to have been killed by the efforts of Soviet intelligence. "(Castro) sure as the devil was shaken when his man (Bishop) was shot," the senator said.

"I would have tried diplomacy with Cuba" rather a military solution, he said.

The invasion by U.S. and Caribbean troops was not well prepared, he said. The fact "our men were using tourist maps was inexcusable," Moynihan said.